

**TABLE 2 - COTTONTAIL RABBIT
WILDLIFE HABITAT RATING CRITERIA - QUALITY OF HABITAT ELEMENTS**

Wildlife Species	Habitat Element	Plant Species Available	Management	Component Score ¹	Applicable Score ²		Applicable Practice(s) or Job Sheet ³
					Existing	Planned	
Cottontail Rabbit (Statewide)	Grain and Seed Crops	A - Winter Wheat, Winter Rye or Grain Corn	A-1 Receives normal agronomic treatments. If grain corn, residues remaining on soil during winter.	A-1 2			329
			A-2 Crop residues not remaining on soil during winter.	A-2 0			330
		B - Oats, Buckwheat, Barley, or vegetable crops	B-1 Receives normal agronomic treatments. Crop residues remaining on soil during winter or cover crop planted.	B-1 1			344
			B-2 Crop residues not remaining and no cover crop.	B-2 0			590
		C - No grain or seed crops.	-	C 0			
	Domestic Grasses and Legumes	A - Bluegrass, Smooth Brome, Lespedeza, Timothy, Alfalfa, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Clover (Ladino, Alsike, White or Red) , or Orchard Grass	A-1 Receives normal agronomic treatments and used as hayland.	A-1 3			342
			A-2 Receives normal agronomic treatments and used as pasture with proper management.	A-2 3			390
			A-3 Used as pasture or hay but improperly managed.	A-3 2			511
		B - Red-Top, Switch-grass, Sweetclover, Red Fescue, Crown Vetch or Flatpea	B-1 Receives normal agronomic treatment and properly managed.	B-1 2			528A
			B-2 Receives normal agronomic treatment but improperly managed.	B-2 1			590
		C - Other species of grasses and legumes OR no domestic grasses and legumes.	-	C 0			Warm Season Grass Job Sheet
	Wild Herbaceous Upland Plants	A - Wide variety of herbaceous plants (e.g. Dandelion, Yellow Rocket, Wild Strawberry, Pigweed, Hawkweed, Chickweed, Plantain, Sedges, Violets, etc.)	A-1 Strip mowed annually or mowed every two years in mid-summer.	A-1 3			314
			A-2 Mowed less frequently than in "A-1".	A-2 2			511
			A-3 Not mowed at all; is succeeding to woody species.	A-3 0			647
							Fallow Disking Job Sheet

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					Existing	Planned	
Cottontail Rabbit (Continued)	Wild Herbaceous Upland Plants (Continued)	B - Dominated heavily by only a few species (e.g. Goldenrod, Ragweed or Spirea) OR no wild herbaceous upland plants.	B-1 Mowed at least once every three years.	B-1 1			
			B-2 Not mowed at all and will, or is, succeeding to woody species.	B-2 0			
	Deciduous Trees and Shrubs	A - Shrub thicket - early succession forest; dominant species include: Apple, Hawthornes, Sumac, Viburnums, Dogwoods, Elderberry, Blackberry, Sweet Fern, Blueberry, Hazelnut, Maple, Ash, Cherry, seedlings and saplings.	A-1 Maintenance cutting is or will be done to remove sapling and pole size trees as they become established (except apple). From 1-10 brush piles are present per acre.	A-1 4			386
			A-2 Maintenance is or will be conducted. No brush piles are available.	A-2 3			612
			A-3 No maintenance cutting has or will be conducted. At least 1 brush pile per acre is available.	A-3 2			666
			A-4 No maintenance cutting has or will be conducted. No brush piles available.	A-4 1			Brush Pile Job Sheet
		B - Forest condition- woodland main stand is sapling to pole size trees consisting of Apple, Cherry, Ash, Aspen and others. Understory woody vegetation, woody sprouts, seedlings and saplings are abundant.	B-1 Maintenance cutting is or will be conducted to maintain a dense understory. Brush piles will be constructed.	B-1 2			Cut-back Border Job Sheet
			B-2 No maintenance cutting has or will be conducted. No brush piles available.	B-2 0			
		C - Woodland main stand is same as B above, but understory woody vegetation is scarce.	C-1 Stand density will be reduced to increase understory density and brush piles will be created.	C-1 1			Forest Opening Job Sheet
		D - Woodland main stand is light saw timber and larger.	D-1 Timber will be harvested by the clear-cut method in blocks of 10 acres or less.	D-1 1			
			D-2 Timber will not be harvested or will not be harvested by the clear-cut method.	D-2 0			

**TABLE 2 - COTTONTAIL RABBIT
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Wildlife Species	Habitat Element	Plant Species Available	Management	Component Score ¹	Applicable Score ²		Applicable Practice(s) or Job Sheet ³
					Existing	Planned	
Cottontail Rabbit (Continued)	Coniferous Trees and Shrubs	A - Conifer stand is in a seedling, sapling, or pole stage and consist of one or more of the following: White Pine, Scotch Pine, Hemlock, Spruces or Red Cedar.	A-1 Stand is now and will be managed at a very low density permitting each tree to retain limbs at ground level. Some topping of saplings is or will be conducted.	A-1	2		314
			A-2 Density as in "A-1", but stand receives no management.	A-2	0		380
			A-3 Stand is of moderate to high density. Some live limbs are at ground level; stand density will be reduced and topping of sapling trees will be conducted.	A-3	1		386
			A-4 Density as in "A-3", but stand does not receive any management.	A-4	0		422
		B - Conifer stand(s) are in a saw timber stage OR consist of Red Pine, Larch, Virginia Pine or other species; OR no conifers present.	-	B	0		612
TABLE 2 TOTAL SCORE							Wildlife Conifers Job Sheet

ELEMENT QUALITY RATING KEY

Total Score is: 0 - 4 = **Poor**
5 - 7 = **Fair**
8 - 11 = **Good**
12 - 14 = **Excellent**

¹ Component Score - This is the value of the Habitat Element with certain species composition and under a certain management.

² Applicable Score - To determine the proper rating, use the "highest" component score for the line entry which applies most closely or where all conditions have been met. Only one component score may be used per habitat element.

³ Applicable Practice(s) or Job Sheet(s) - These are a few relevant practice codes in Section IV of the FOTG, or additional references, that could potentially be utilized to achieve management objectives for the particular habitat element.